



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Child Care Stabilization Fund

Child Care Stabilization Fund Overview

What is the Child Care Stabilization Fund?

In Winter 2021, Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) was awarded federal funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2021 by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

This federally-funded grant will support the child care system's recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic with key focus on recommended categories of spending designed to stabilize the system's ability to effectively and safely serve young children. DHS will support child care providers in completing an online application to apply for funds to support their business operations.

How much funding will child care providers be eligible to receive?

Family Child Care Home providers will receive a program-based stipend reflective of their licensed capacity. Child Care Centers will receive classroom-based stipends reflective of their licensed capacity. These stipends are reflective of the lost revenue associated with a 25% reduction in enrollment as compared against monthly operating costs.¹ Stipend amounts by provider type are summarized in the table below:

Provider Type	Stipend Amount	Payment Amount
Child Care Center	Varies based on number of classrooms and licensed capacity. Stipends begin at \$4,500.	Varies. Centers will receive two rounds of payments based on two separate grant applications and awards. Stipends are capped at \$50,000 per licensed center per payment round.
Family Child Care Home	\$1,500	\$3,000 (two stipends issued in one payment)
Group Family Child Care Home	\$2,250	\$4,500 (two stipends issued in one payment)
License-exempt provider	\$400	\$800 (two stipends issued in one payment)

All licensed programs will need to submit an online grant application prior to award. The first window of applications will open on March 29, 2021.

Child Care Centers will apply during two separate application windows and will receive separate payments for each award.

Depending on fund availability and number of applicants, DHS may extend the application window or award additional stipends until the fund is depleted.

¹ <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/Documents/DHSChildCareSurveySeriesSummary1.2021.pdf>



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Am I eligible for a stabilization grant?

You are eligible to apply for funds if you are a:

- (1) Child Care Center, Family Child Care Home, or Group Family Child Care Home who is actively licensed by Rhode Island DHS; or
- (2) Provider who is 18 years or older and cares only for children to whom you are related (license-exempt)

The licensee, owner, or primary financial manager of a program should submit an application on behalf of the program.

How do I apply?

The grant application link will be available on March 29th at <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/>. You will navigate to the application link to create an applicant profile. This will allow you to save your application and return to the portal to see the status of your application, update any information, or re-apply during a subsequent round of funding.

For guidance on how to set up an applicant profile, visit the grant resource documents posted at <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/>.

What information do I need to apply? View the Provider Checklist at <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/>.

When will I receive the funds?

DHS anticipates disbursing funds within 30 business days of receiving a completed grant application.

Providers will elect to receive funds either by direct deposit or by mailed check. Electing to receive funds by check may delay payment up to an additional 30 business days due to processing and mail delivery.

Who can I contact if I need help applying for this grant?

We want this application process to be straightforward and are here to answer your questions! There are several ways to access assistance in applying for a stabilization grant.

- *View online resources*, including:
 - (1) Process Guide: How to create an applicant profile within the online application system.
 - (2) Application Tips: How to navigate the online grant application.
 - (3) Provider Checklist: A checklist to prepare you for completion of your grant application.
 - (4) FAQ: A compiled list of frequently asked questions which provides detailed information about the grant.

Note: Links to these online resources are located at <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/>.

Watch a webinar. DHS has developed webinars to guide your program through the grant application process. Your program will receive an email with links to these webinars which detail an overview of the grant, eligibility, how to apply, and how to spend the grant award. Webinars will also be posted online at <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/>.



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Attend weekly office hours. Virtual office hours will be held twice per week during the application period. Providers should attend office hours to ask questions about the grant application process and obtain any additional assistance needed. Office hours will be held separately for Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Home providers (including Group Family Child Care Home and license-exempt providers). The schedule of office hours will be emailed to your program and posted online at <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/>. Reach out to ChildCareGrants@pcgus.com to find out more about office hours.

- *Contact us!* Reach out to our provider support email address to submit a question or request a technical assistance phone call with our staff: ChildCareGrants@pcgus.com. Both English and Spanish speaking providers may receive assistance through this email inbox.